AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7.   (Canceled)

8.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1 further comprising:~~ A method for processing objects within a data processing system in a network, the method comprising:

   receiving a message at a computing device, wherein the message comprises a set of
      message headers and a message body, wherein the message body contains a top-
      level fragment comprising a first linking element to a first next-level fragment;

   in response to determining that the first linking element comprises an expansion attribute,
      generating a set of linking elements in accordance with at least one parameter
      associated with the expansion attribute;

   retrieving a cookie name parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

   retrieving a cookie value associated with the cookie name; and

   retrieving an expansion parameter name and an expansion parameter value from the
      cookie value.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 8 further comprising:

   parsing the cookie value as a string comprising a list of name-value pairs.

10-21. (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:~~ An apparatus for processing objects within a data processing system in a network, the apparatus comprising:

   means for receiving a message at a computing device, wherein the message comprises a
      set of message headers and a message body, wherein the message body contains a
      top-level fragment comprising a first linking element to a first next-level
      fragment;

   means for generating, in response to determining that the first linking element comprises
      an expansion attribute, a set of linking elements in accordance with at least one
      parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

means for retrieving a cookie name parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

means for retrieving a cookie value associated with the cookie name; and

means for retrieving an expansion parameter name and an expansion parameter value from the cookie value.

23.   (Original)   The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

means for parsing the cookie value as a string comprising a list of name-value pairs.

24-35. (Canceled)

36.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:~~ A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use within a data processing system in a network for processing objects, the computer program product comprising:

    instructions for receiving a message at a computing device, wherein the message comprises a set of message headers and a message body, wherein the message body contains a top-level fragment comprising a first linking element to a first next-level fragment;

    instructions for generating a set of linking elements in accordance with at least one parameter associated with the expansion attribute in response to determining that the first linking element comprises an expansion attribute;

    instructions for retrieving a cookie name parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

    instructions for retrieving a cookie value associated with the cookie name; and

    instructions for retrieving an expansion parameter name and an expansion parameter value from the cookie value.

37.   (Original)   The computer program product of claim 36 further comprising:

instructions for parsing the cookie value as a string comprising a list of name-value pairs.

38-43. (Canceled)

44.   (Currently Amended) ~~The data structure of claim 43~~ A data structure for use by a computing device in defining a content object, the data structure comprising:

a set of delimiters for a markup language element;

a keyword for indicating that the markup language element is a linking element to a fragment; a source identifier for the fragment, wherein the source identifier is used to obtain the fragment; and

an expansion attribute comprising at least one parameter for expanding the linking element into a set of linking elements, wherein the parameter is a cookie name identifying a cookie whose value is a list of name-value pairs that are used to form source identifiers for the set of linking elements.

45-48. (Canceled)